

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: September 28, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:26 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Patrice Abduallah
Jim Bradford
Ginny Cain
Scott Keller
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Mary Moriarty Adams
Mike Speedy

ABSENT MEMBERS

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 497, 2006 - transfers and appropriates \$3,700,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Fleet Services Division (Consolidated County Fund) to pay additional costs for vehicle repair parts and supplies and motor vehicle fuel due to rising fuel prices, financed by internal charges and revenues from non-city customers that purchase fuel from Indianapolis Fleet Services

"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 498, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Northpoint Village Subdivision, Section 1 (District 1)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 499, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Grandview Gardens Subdivision (District 2)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 500, 2006 - authorizes the removal of a multi-way stop at the intersection of 81st Street and Claffey Drive (District 3)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 501, 2006 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of 11th Street and LaSalle Street (District 10)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 502, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Sungate Subdivision (District 13)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 503, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls at the intersection of Iris Avenue and Jackson Street (District 14)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 504, 2006 - authorizes a bus stop zone on Delaware Street near North Street (District 15)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 505, 2006 - authorizes a bus stop zone on Delaware Street near Michigan Street (District 15)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 506, 2006 - authorizes 20-minute parking meters on Massachusetts Avenue between Vermont Street and Michigan Street (District 15)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 507, 2006 - authorizes the increase in the speed limit on Morris Street from Harding Street to East Street (District 19)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 508, 2006 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Banta Road and Concord Street (District 22)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 509, 2006 - authorizes a change in preferential intersection control at the intersection of Camden Street and Markwood Avenue (District 23)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 510, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls at the intersection of Knoll Top Drive and Linwood Avenue (District 24)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 511, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Westbrooke Subdivision, Section 1 (District 25)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 512, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Smithfield Subdivision, Sections 2 and 3B (District 25)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 513, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for Bentley Commons,
Section 1 Subdivision and Bentley Estates, Section 2 Subdivision (District 25)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 514, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Timberlakes
Subdivision, Section 3 (District 25)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, September 28, 2006. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Jim Bradford, Ginny Cain, Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, Angela Mansfield, and Mike Speedy. Mary Moriarty Adams arrived shortly thereafter.

PROPOSAL NO. 497, 2006 - transfers and appropriates \$3,700,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Fleet Services Division (Consolidated County Fund) to pay additional costs for vehicle repair parts and supplies and motor vehicle fuel due to rising fuel prices, financed by internal charges and revenues from non-city customers that purchase fuel from Indianapolis Fleet Services

Ron Stinson, Indianapolis Fleet Services (IFS), Department of Public Works (DPW), stated that this increase in Character 02 is to cover fuel costs, repair parts, and other supplies through the end of 2006. He said that these three areas were underbudgeted, due primarily to escalating prices in petroleum-based products. To date, IFS has spent \$5,981,000 in fuel, leaving only a \$1.7 million balance. They estimate that \$4.6 million in fuel will be needed to complete the year, leaving a shortfall of \$2.9 million. He said that prior year spending was used to estimate the budget for repair parts and garage and motor supplies (tires, fluids, greases and hydraulic supplies), but these costs have increased and there is a shortfall in both areas to meet the needs for the remainder of 2006. He said that the fuel estimate of \$2.9 million is based on a price of \$2.60 per gallon. Usage of fuel is down compared to last year, but because of high prices of gas earlier in the year, there is a shortfall. He said that fuel costs have decreased in the last few months, but there is no way to predict if they will continue to decrease, remain the same, or escalate again. Gas prices have ranged from \$2.34 to \$2.77 per gallon, and the average cost for July and August has been \$2.53 per gallon. Therefore, the division feels that budgeting for \$2.60 per gallon should handle any fluctuating prices. Mr. Stinson said that IFS recovers most of these costs through chargebacks to City departments in Character 05, and through revenue received from non-city customers through Character 08.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Moriarty Adams arrived at 5:06 p.m.]

Jeff Seidenstein, Deputy Controller, introduced Ryan Backs, a financial analyst in the Office of Finance and Management who will be drafting upcoming proposals and is here to learn the Council process. He said that the projected fund balance presented in the 2007 budget process took into account this additional appropriation. He added that if

gas price trending continues, and costs decrease, the amount of this appropriation that is not used will be captured back into the end-of-the-year fund balance.

Councillor Mansfield asked how revenues from non-city customers are handled. Mr. Stinson said that IFS invoices these customers, who then pay these bills to IFS, and that money goes back into the fuel account. Councillor Mansfield asked who can qualify as a non-city customer. Mr. Stinson said that these are entities that have municipal plates on their vehicles. Mr. Seidenstein added that the Sheriff's Department is the biggest non-city customer. They are a county agency, and therefore are not included in the normal city chargeback process.

Councillor Speedy asked if this is mostly a chargeback increase and not an increase in the overall DPW budget. Mr. Seidenstein stated that \$2.6 million of this appropriation will be recovered from city agencies, with \$1 million coming from outside customers. He said that there will be an increase in the total budget, however, of approximately \$1,024,000. Councillor Speedy asked if this increase is funded by taxpayers. Mr. Seidenstein said that most of the non-city customers are funded by taxes, as well as the city departments who get their fuel from IFS. While some agencies will be able to move money around within their budget without having to increase their total overall budget, some will actually have to come back before the Council in the next few months to ask for additional appropriations to cover these unexpected fuel costs.

Councillor Speedy asked if the money appropriated this evening is restricted to the uses Mr. Stinson just described. Mr. Stinson said that the funds could technically be spent within any area of Character 02, but they need them for these specific areas, and plan to therefore use them for such. Mr. Seidenstein said that the funds can only be used for supplies and materials and could not be used for personnel, contracts, or capital purchases.

Councillor Mahern stated that this increase should not come as a surprise to anyone, and most Council members and staff know that fuel has been drastically underbudgeted due to volatile gas prices. He said that such costs are hard to predict. Mr. Seidenstein said that the price for fuel was increased in the 2007 budget just approved. Mr. Stinson said that last year, fuel was budgeted at \$1.78 per gallon, and for the 2007 budget, they estimated costs at \$2.20 per gallon.

Councillor Bradford asked in the event prices continue to decrease, if the division will reserve these additional monies in case costs escalate again or if they will shift to other areas of the budget. Mr. Seidenstein said that any monies the division does not spend in 2006 will revert back into the fund balance at the end of the year and will then need to be re-appropriated if gas prices escalate again.

Councillor Mahern asked what fuel bills are outstanding and unpaid right now. Mr. Stinson said that \$234,000 has been encumbered and is being processed for payment at this time. Councillor Mahern asked what the average cost in fuel per month has

been. Mr. Stinson said that it has been approximately \$915,000 per month for the last three months.

Chairman Conley asked if IFS is feeling a reprieve due to the recent decline in fuel costs. Mr. Stinson said that the volume being used has remained steady at approximately 356,000 to 358,000 gallons per month, but the decrease in cost per gallon has definitely made a difference.

Councillor Bradford moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal No. 497, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

Chairman Conley asked for consent to hear and vote on Proposal Nos. 498-514, 2006 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 498, 2006 - authorizes intersection controls for the Northpoint Village Subdivision, Section 1 (District 1)

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Councillor Mansfield asked if all of these proposals have been approved by the Engineering Division of DPW. Nathan Sheets, project planner, DPW, stated that they have.

Chairman Conley asked if all of the proposals have been approved by the district Councillor. Mr. Sheets answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Sheets read through each project description and explained the process for these proposals.

Councillor Bradford asked with regard to Proposal Nos. 504 and 505, 2006, if these added bus stops at the intersections near the federal building will be in conflict with the federal building safety measures, seeing that parking meters were removed from those areas several years ago. Mr. Sheets said that these stops are part of the IndyGo shelter project to allow buses to move out of the way of traffic. The bus stops do not allow for parking in these areas. Councillor Bradford said that he just wanted to make sure. He explained that several years ago, when Sheriff Frank Anderson was a Federal Marshall, the Council held a closed door meeting to remove those meters around the building for security reasons after the September 11th terrorist attacks. He would not want to enact any ordinance now that would undo that decision or jeopardize security around the federal building. Mr. Sheets said that these bus stops will not cause any conflict with the safety measures for the federal building.

Councillor Keller referred to the 20-minute parking meters on Massachusetts Avenue and asked if these meters regulate in increments of 20-minutes, as most meters do, with a maximum of one or two hours. Mr. Sheets stated that these meters actually have a 20-minute maximum limit and will replace the existing one- to two-hour meters. He said that retail entities along that stretch, such as Starbucks and the video store, wanted their parking spaces to be limited, because of the turnover in patrons. They did not want the meters tied up for two hours by people lunching down the street, therefore limiting parking spaces available for their customers. Mr. Sheets said that the staff worked with Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. and the Massachusetts Avenue business owners in setting up this restriction. Councillor Keller asked if those parking meter requirements end at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Sheets replied in the affirmative, and said that there is free parking after 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m., as with most downtown meters.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillors Speedy and Cain, to send Proposal Nos. 498-514, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag